

Alexander Boynes grows up and gets serious

The first and important point to make about Alexander Boynes is that in his practice he has largely shed the chrysalis stage and is working quite independently from the influence of his parents and his art school training.

Boynes appears to ascribe to the thesis that art should reflect its time, both in its imagery and its technology. His exhibition involves a huge dual channel video installation, plus several smaller videos and eight quite large enamel paintings on aluminium panels. It is an enormously ambitious exhibition, one that is full of youthful energy.



Multimedia and video artist Alexander Boynes.

Photo: Jeffrey Chan

The video installation, *Dark Matter - Variation 1*, is located within a Francis Bacon-like cage and has a mesmerising dance sequence performed by his sister, Laura Boynes, with a soundtrack by Tristen Parr. A bit more than five minutes, it is long enough to develop a narrative, yet short enough to keep one's attention focused with quite a number of variable kinetic elements. Some of the dynamism and pulsating rhythm of the performance piece relates to the paintings, which could be interpreted as film stills.

Paintings such as the sketches to *Dark Matter* and *Dash, Midnight Walker* and especially the large diptych, *Monolith*, all of 2014, have a simple but effective design. Here crisp linear patterns are combined with vibrant colours and this is allowed to 'leap off' the metallic surface. They are effective, rather than totally convincing in the manner in which they make a grab for our attention and yet fail to build on this or create a multi-tiered image which would invite us to approach the work on a number of levels.



Alexander Boynes' *Dark Matter Sketch 1*, 2014.

As a whole this is a credible exhibition which is highly accomplished in its technical resolution. Compared with much of the recent digital work, it is somewhat low tech, but adequate for what it sets out to do. It is accessible and compared with his earlier work, shows a much greater independence of his father's influence which previously had been quite pervasive. This is a serious exhibition, but one with a sense of joy and humour, and it holds promise for interesting developments in the future.